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NSC BRIEFING

22 May 1957

BRITISH POLICY TOWARD EGYPT

I. In Beirut and in the Middle East generally a press and whispering campaign appears to be in progress which suggests that a British-Egyptian rapprochement is taking place. Meanwhile, the United States and France are being attacked more bitterly.

II.

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A. Many of the papers and individuals quoted are definitely pro-Egyptian and financed by Cairo.

1. An example is the pro-Nasr Beirut paper Al Siyassah which recently praised Britain and cited "rather neutral" British statements on Israel, recent British non-interference in Jordan, British using of the canal, and absence of any anti-Arab British press campaign as indications that London wants to draw closer to the Arabs.

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B. Leftist elements, possibly on Moscow's inspiration, are also supporting this pitch.

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